

ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONE FHT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is intended to create Residential Parking Zone FHT in the community of Forest Heights. The request for this zone was initiated by Councillor Chabot on behalf of the community. It is needed to address parking issues associated with facilities such as the East Area Health Centre, a library, commercial plaza, three schools, an athletic park, community association and the Forest Grove Care Centre.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Transportation and Transit recommends that Council:

1. Approve the establishment of Residential Parking Zone FHT (Attachment 1); and
2. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw to amend Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96 in regard to Residential Parking Zone FHT (Attachment 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPC ON TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSIT, DATED 2014 FEBRUARY 19:

That Council:

1. Approve the establishment of Residential Parking Zone FHT (Attachment 1); and
2. Give three readings to **Proposed Bylaw 12M2014** to amend Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96 in regard to Residential Parking Zone FHT (Attachment 2).

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

The Residential Parking Zone system is used to address parking issues adjacent to high parking generators such as shopping malls, hospitals, educational institutions and LRT stations.

BACKGROUND

The Forest Heights Community Association would like a residential parking zone established to mitigate potential on-street parking issues associated with a number of facilities such as the East Area Health Centre, school and a senior's residence in the area. Creating the zone would allow for residential parking restrictions where required. The Ward 10 Councillor has indicated support for this initiative.

Since the inception of the Residential Parking Zone Program, Council has established 73 residential parking zones. These Residential Parking Zones are identified in the Calgary Traffic Bylaw 26M96.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Parking zones are an effective parking management tool in areas adjacent to amenities that generate parking demand. Creation of a residential parking zone does not in itself alter parking restrictions in an area. Once a zone is established, residents can apply for parking restrictions on individual street blocks by submitting a petition to the Roads Traffic Engineering Division.

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Petitions are successful and parking restrictions are implemented if at least 80% of the immediately adjacent residents agree to them. Implementation requires installing parking restriction signs and issuing permits to the adjacent residents.

Traffic counts in the area performed by the Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) supported the creation of a residential parking zone. The proposed Residential Parking Zone FHT was designed using community boundaries such as high volume roads. Aligning the parking zone with these features can help make the zone boundaries more intuitive for residents.

Residential parking zones typically extend a minimum of 600 metres from identified parking generators when physical barriers are not present. This distance is identified as the typical comfortable walking distance in Calgary's Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Guidelines, and is used in both TOD and other areas when establishing residential parking zones. If a zone is established, parking restrictions will only be for residential frontages

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The Ward Councillor's office initiated the discussion about establishing Residential Parking Zone FHT. Roads Traffic Engineering engaged the Forest Heights Community Association, the Forest Grove Care Centre and Alberta Health Services to discuss concerns and the process related to parking zones by telephone calls and emails.

Calgary Parking Authority (CPA) was engaged to ensure there were no concerns with the residential parking zone from an enforcement perspective.

Calgary residents may learn about the residential parking zone processes and locations by accessing information on-line at www.calgary.ca or by calling 311.

Strategic Alignment

The recommendations in this report align with themes identified in the Triple Bottom Line Policy Framework, as well as policies and principles in the Calgary Transportation Plan. These include improving quality of life for community residents and encouraging use of active transportation modes and transit.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Residential Parking Zone FHT will contribute to the quality of life in the Forest Heights community by helping to ensure that on-street parking is available to area residents and their visitors.

Restricting non residential parking in neighbourhoods adjacent to high parking generators can help reduce green house gas emissions by encouraging alternatives to single occupancy vehicle travel such as walking, cycling and transit.

No quantifiable external economic implications are identified with this report.

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Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

Roads operational expenditures associated with residential parking zones are nominal and are accounted for in current operating budgets. They consist of costs associated with processing residential parking permit petitions.

Other costs associated with establishing residential parking zones are paid for by The Calgary Parking Authority per standard practice. They include permit administration and enforcement as well as signage installation and maintenance.

Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no anticipated impacts to the Capital Budget resulting from this report.

Risk Assessment

If Residential Parking Zone FHT is not established, residents and their visitors may have difficulty parking near their homes as new facilities such as the East Area Health Centre continue to grow.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Establishment of Residential Parking Zone FHT is recommended to address community concerns about current and future parking issues.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Proposed Residential Parking Zone FHT
2. **Proposed Bylaw 12M2014**
3. Residential Parking Report Recommendations – Forest Heights
4. Notice of Motion 2013-31